

# News Release

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## **PLANNING APPROVAL FOR THE LIMEHOUSE LINK SCHEME**

Planning permission for the Limehouse Link Road has been granted by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) to consulting engineers, Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners.

The approval follows a decision by Secretary of State for the Environment, the Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley, MP, to let the LDDC determine the application for the 1.5 km road scheme.

The application was referred by the LDDC to Mr Ridley because in its opinion, it was a departure from the statutory local plan.

The Limehouse Link, a four lane 'cut and cover' tunnel, will link the Highway at the junction of Butcher Row and Narrow Street, to Westferry Road on the Isle of Dogs. The road will pass under the north side of Limehouse Basin, turning south to pass underneath Limekiln Dock and Dundee Wharf, to join with Westferry Road at a major new signalled junction. A further four lane cut and cover section will connect to the South Poplar Link, at North Quay. The scheme also includes the widening of Westferry Road from Westferry Circus to West India Dock Road.

The line of the Limehouse Link, has been designed to avoid, as much as possible, the homes and businesses of Limehouse. However construction of the road will require some demolition and the temporary loss of the local park - Ropemaker's Field. The LDDC is preparing a scheme for a new, enlarged park, on the same site, and will encourage plans for replacement buildings, sympathetic to the local area, when the road is built.

The Corporation is currently in discussion with businessmen, shopkeepers and community services affected by the highway schemes and is looking for new buildings in which to relocate these activities.

The Limehouse Link is one of a number of highway schemes being progressed by the Corporation to improve access onto the Isle of Dogs. These include the widening of Westferry Road, from the Millwall Lock entrance northwards to Westferry Circus; improvements to West India Dock Road, including the realignment of the junction with East India Dock Road, and the South Poplar Link.

Under the terms of an accord, agreed by the LDDC and London Borough of Tower Hamlets last week, more than 450 tenants - in St Vincents and Barley Mow estates, part of Birchfield and Will Crook estates and Dolphin and Burrell Houses - who currently live in sub-standard blocks of flats and who would be adversely affected by the Corporation's road proposals, are to be rehoused. Wherever possible this will be in new accommodation comprising maisonettes, flats and houses, in many cases with gardens. A further 200 Council homes are also to be refurbished to "as new standard" under the accord.

The two authorities will be setting up a joint unit to advise and consult with tenants on rehousing proposals and to implement individual tenants' choices for replacement homes. In addition the Corporation and the Borough have agreed, in the accord, to co-operate fully over the next four years to implement action to stop "rat-running" on local residential streets; a £30M plus package of new social, economic and community projects for the benefit of Tower Hamlets residents; vital improvements in public transport and the Corporation's major roads programme.

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Note to Editors

The LDDC Press Office has moved to the above address, as from 4 July 1988. Would you please amend your records accordingly.